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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A system for providing dynamically shared documents, comprising:

a hub; and

a plurality of computing devices in physical proximity with the hub; wherein

each of the plurality of computing devices communicates with the hub via a wireless connection;

the hub receives and retransmits requested documents between selected computing devices;

each of the plurality of computing devices translates each requested document into a system independent language prior to transmitting the requested document to the hub; and

each of the plurality of computing devices translates each received document from the hub.

2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the system independent language is a Java based language.

3. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the system independent language is an extensible markup language.

4. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the hub is portable.

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5.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of computing devices is a personal digital assistant.

5   6.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of computing devices is a laptop computer.

7.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein at least
10   one of the plurality of computing devices is portable.

8.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein transmissions between each of the plurality of computing devices and the hub are encrypted.
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9.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein transmissions between each of the plurality of computing devices and the hub are infrared transmissions.

20   10.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein transmissions between each of the plurality of computing devices and the hub are radio frequency transmissions.

11.   A method in a data processing system for retrieving
25   documents from other data processing systems, comprising the steps of:
        sending, from a first data processing system, a request, in a system independent language, for a shared document from a second data processing system to a hub in
30   close proximity to the first and second data processing systems via a wireless communication signal;

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receiving, from the hub, via the wireless communication link, the shared document, formatted in the system independent language; and

translating the shared document from the system
5   independent language into a first data processing system preferred data format for presentation to a user.

12.   The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the strength of the wireless communication signal is such
10   that only devices in close proximity with each other may receive the signal, thus ensuring that only authorized recipients receive information conveyed via the wireless communication signal.

15   13.   The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the system independent language is an extensible markup language.

14.   The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the
20   system independent language is JAVA.

15.   A computer program product in computer readable media for use in a data processing system for retrieving documents from other data processing systems, the
25   computer program product comprising:

first instructions for sending, from a first data processing system, a request, in a system independent language, for a shared document from a second data processing system to a hub in close proximity to the
30   first and second data processing systems via a wireless communication signal;

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second instructions for receiving, from the hub, via the wireless communication link, the shared document, formatted in the system independent language; and

third instructions for translating the shared

5   document from the system independent language into a first data processing system preferred data format for presentation to a user.

16.   The computer program product as recited in claim 15,

10   wherein the strength of the wireless communication signal is such that only devices in close proximity with each other may receive the signal, thus ensuring that only authorized recipients receive information conveyed via the wireless communication signal.

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17.   The computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein the system independent language is an extensible markup language.

20   18.   The computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein the system independent language is JAVA.

19.   A system for retrieving documents from other data processing systems, comprising:

25   means for sending, from a first data processing system, a request, in a system independent language, for a shared document from a second data processing system to a hub in close proximity to the first and second data processing systems via a wireless communication signal;

30   means for receiving, from the hub, via the wireless communication link, the shared document, formatted in the

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system independent language; and

means for translating the shared document from the system independent language into a first data processing system preferred data format for presentation to a user.

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20. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the strength of the wireless communication signal is such that only devices in close proximity with each other may receive the signal, thus ensuring that only authorized

10 recipients receive information conveyed via the wireless communication signal.

21. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the system independent language is an extensible markup

15 language.

22. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the system independent language is JAVA.

20 23. A method in a data processing system for facilitating communications between a plurality of other data processing systems, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request in a system independent format from a first data processing system via a wireless

25 communication link;

broadcasting the request to a second data processing system via the wireless communication link;

receiving an answer in a system independent format from the second data processing system via the wireless

30 communication link; and

broadcasting the answer to the first data processing

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system via the wireless communication link.

24. The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the wireless communication link utilizes infrared
5   frequencies.

25. A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for facilitating communications between a plurality of other
10   data processing systems, the computer program product comprising:
    first instructions for receiving a request in a system independent format from a first data processing system via a wireless communication link;
15   second instructions for broadcasting the request to a second data processing system via the wireless communication link;
    third instructions for receiving an answer in a system independent format from the second data processing
20   system via the wireless communication link; and
    fourth instructions for broadcasting the answer to the first data processing system via the wireless communication link.

25   26. The computer program product as recited in claim 25, wherein the wireless communication link utilizes infrared frequencies.

27. A system in a data processing system for
30   facilitating communications between a plurality of other data processing systems, comprising:

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means for receiving a request in a system independent format from a first data processing system via a wireless communication link;

means for broadcasting the request to a second data
5   processing system via the wireless communication link;

means for receiving an answer in a system independent format from the second data processing system via the wireless communication link; and

means for broadcasting the answer to the first data
10   processing system via the wireless communication link.

28.   The system as recited in claim 27, wherein the wireless communication link utilizes infrared frequencies.

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